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UN QUIZZED ON SS

The German Democratic Republic has asked the United Nations to intervene to prevent the re-armament of SS Troops in West Germany.

The request was made on September 26th in a letter addressed to Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations, by Dr Hans Loch, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic and Chairman of the Committee for German Unity.

The letter outlined the ghastly record of the Waffen SS, and stated that the integration of the officers of this nazi organisation in the new West German Wehrmacht represented a threat to peace.

Although West Germany is not a member of the United Nations, Article 2 of the United Nations Charter empowered the UN to intervene in such cases "as far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security."

The letter asked the Secretary General to place the matter before the Security Council, and to take the action necessary "to cause the Federal Government to forbid the arming of members of the criminal Waffen SS, to prevent further steps in this direction, and to forbid the activity of the revived SS Old Soldiers' Associations on German soil".

(Full text of the letter to the UN on page 173)

WHAT? NO SWASTIKA?

The Iron Cross, traditional symbol of German militarism, decorates this American-built T33 jet plane of the new West German Luftwaffe, formally inaugurated at Fuerstenfeldbruck on September 24th 1956.

On the right, smiling broadly, stands Theodor Blank, West German War Minister. On the left General Josef Kammhuber, former nazi flier. General Kammhuber launched nazi air warfare in West Europe on May 10th 1940, when he sent a squadron to bomb the German city of Freiburg: this fake attack was then used by nazi propaganda as an excuse for the bombing of open cities in Holland, Belgium and France.

"One characteristic of most of the new (West) German Air Force chiefs is that nearly all are veterans of the air war on the eastern front with Russia."

"New York Herald Tribune"
September 29th 1956

"THOUSANDS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS JAILED"?

Labour M. P.s Help to Prick Propaganda Balloon

Allegations made by West German Social Democrats that "thousands of Social Democrats" are imprisoned in the German Democratic Republic have boiled down to a total of 22 unclarified cases, following intervention by a group of British Labour M. P.s who recently visited Berlin.

The question of the alleged prisoners was raised by the British Labour M. P.s at a conference with leading members of the Socialist Unity Party in Berlin on September 21st. Mr Ben Parkin, Labour M. P. for North Paddington, told a press conference in East Berlin on September 23rd that during this conference he and the other Labour M. P.s with him had asked questions about the Social Democratic allegations.

"Hermann Matern (Deputy Chairman of the East German People's Chamber) told us that his party had often asked the West German Social Democrats to supply lists of people whom they claimed were in prison on account of their Social Democratic activities, but had never received any direct reply" Mr Parkin said. "Yesterday we met Social Democratic leaders in West Berlin . . . and asked for the list of prisoners. We were given the list with the names of 32 alleged Social Democrats on it, and were given permission to present this list to the authorities here. I presented the list to Herr Matern this morning. He appeared delighted to receive it, and assured me that it would be very carefully examined."

On October 3rd Hermann Matern announced in Berlin that a preliminary check of the list showed that ten of the 32 alleged prisoners were at liberty, and going about their work quite normally. The other names were still being checked, and the West German Social Democrats would be informed of the results of the check as soon as it had been concluded.

Herr Matern's statement said in part:

"When Comrade Parkin visited me (on September 23rd) he informed me that the West Berlin Social Democratic officials had admitted to him that the Social Democratic Party had never submitted any list of 'political prisoners' to any authoritative quarter in the German Democratic Republic. Comrade Parkin also told me that he had been able to obtain, after a long delay, such a list from the West Berlin Social Democrats.

"This list, which is dated August 13th 1956, contains the names of a total of 206 'political prisoners', with the names of 32 alleged Social Democrats underlined in red. Three of the total of 206 had been struck out. Labour M. P. Comrade Parkin told me that he had expressed his amazement at this list, since there was obviously a big difference between the figures spread publicly by the Social Democratic Party — in England too — and the reality. He said that he had asked the West Berlin Social Democratic officials whether there were any other names, or whether there were other lists, and received the reply 'No, this is all'.

"I thereupon promised the British delegation that I would have the list, with the names of the alleged imprisoned 32 Social Democrats, submitted to a thorough check. The preliminary investigations showed that of the 32 alleged imprisoned Social Democrats ten are at liberty and going about their normal jobs and social activities. The other names will be checked, and the Social Democratic Party will be informed of the results of the check.

"The leader of the British Labour delegation said that he was grateful to have learned the truth in this manner; this would be of great utility from a standpoint of the further relations between the workers' parties.

"I regret that it was necessary for the Social Democratic list to have reached our hands only after a detour by way of the British Parliamentary delegation. I should like to express the hope that the Social Democratic Party will now use the language of facts and of truth in the interests of the so urgently necessary establishment of normal relations between the workers and between the workers' parties."

West German Trade Unions Reject Rearmament, Conscription

The West German Trade Union Federation condemned rearmament in both halves of Germany at its central congress in Hamburg on October 5th.

By an overwhelming majority the congress passed a resolution calling on the trade union movement "to support all those forces which are willing and able to abolish rearmament and conscription in divided Germany".

In a second resolution the congress called for the right of conscientious objection to military service "not only on religious and ethical grounds, but also for political reasons".

In the discussion which had preceded the passage of these important resolutions, representatives of the younger generation of trade unionists were unanimous in rejecting remilitarisation. "Our opponents say that we are cowards" said Wasnetzki, a young miner. "It is a thousand times better to be that sort of 'coward' than to help turn the young generation into cannon fodder."

A number of speakers suggested that the West German Trade Union Federation should get into direct contact with the East German trade unions for discussions on subjects of mutual interest.

"Anne Frank" In East and West

Simultaneous East and West German premieres were given to "The Diary of Anne Frank", Broadway hit play, on October 1st.

The play, based on the diary of a young Jewish girl living underground under the nazi terror, is being performed in Dresden, East Germany, in West Berlin and in a number of West German cities.

American dramatists Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett adapted the play from the actual diary of Anne Frank, who was killed by the nazis in 1944.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On Seventh Anniversary Democratic Germany Announces: National Income Doubled, Atom Power Plant Planned, Working Week to be Shorter

The German Democratic Republic celebrated its seventh birthday on October 7th with the announcement that the national income had more than doubled since the foundation of the state in 1949. At the same time it was announced that the total sum paid out in wages in the Republic had increased from 3,600 million marks in 1949 to an estimated 11,500 million marks in 1956. The enormous increase in the wage fund has been coupled with a steady fall in prices.

These figures, showing that the German Democratic Republic is now a flourishing going concern, were given by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl in an official speech marking the seventh birthday of the Republic. Here are some of the main points from Prime Minister Grotewohl's speech:

"Seven years ago the state of national emergency and the struggle against the partition policy of the imperialist western powers and their West German allies led to the establishment of our new, peaceloving and democratic German state. Seven years of hard toil lie behind us. We have had our successes and our failures, but our Republic has grown, and the life of the population has become richer and better. Our Republic has recived recognition both nationally and internationally . . ."

"The fulfillment of the first Five Year Plan (1951—1955) laid the economic foundations for the construction of socialism in the German Democratic Republic."

After detailing some of the main successes in the economic field, Prime Minister Grotewohl added: "It must be admitted that there are still a number of difficulties in the way of fulfilling the tasks ahead of us. These include incomplete preparatory planning, and a number of difficulties in the provision of sufficient raw materials. As a result the plan for industrial production in the first half of 1956 was not completely fulfilled, although production was considerably above the 1955 level.

"One of the great tasks confronting us in the Second Five Year Plan (1956—1960) is the speedy development of atomic science for peaceful purposes. At present projection work for the atomic power plant which will be built here in the Second Five Year Plan is going ahead with the help of the Soviet Union."

Other main targets during the course of the Second Five Year Plan include the following, Prime Minister Grotewohl stated:

1. Reduction of working hours to 45 per week in 1957, and to 42 in 1960, without any reduction of wages.

2. A pension reform plan, to be introduced shortly, guaranteeing pensioners a minimum of 50 % of the income earned while they were still employed.

3. The abolition of food rationing in 1957.

Turning to international relations, Prime Minister Grotewohl stressed the increasingly close ties, not only with the Socialist countries but also with the countries of Asia and Africa.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly declared its great sympathy for the struggle of the anti-imperialist peoples. The nationalisation of the Suez Canal is solely a matter for the Government of Egypt, and any intervention by other powers is a breach of international law.

"We have also formed new ties with Yugoslavia, through the signature on August 3rd 1956 of the agreement by which the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and the German Democratic Republic will cooperate in increasing Yugoslav aluminium production. We wish to extend further our relations with Yugoslavia, and to deepen our friendly relations with the Yugoslav people."

Turning to the question of German unity, Prime Minister Grotewohl urged once again that the West German authorities should show their readiness to discuss with the German Democratic Republic the steps to be taken for a relaxation of tension in Germany and the peaceful solution of the German question.

"Understanding between the Germans is possible, and it is urgently necessary. Those who oppose such understanding will find one day that they have been overtaken by events, and that understanding has been achieved over their heads. We appeal to all Germans of good will to work for the achievement of such an understanding."

Saar Agreement — E. German Statement

The German Democratic Republic cannot recognise the validity of the agreement on the Saar recently concluded between West Germany and France, since the Saar problem is an all-German question and can only be settled with the participation of both existing German states, it was officially declared in Berlin on October 8th.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic proposed that until the final solution of the problem through the creation of a united Germany, the Saar should be neutralised. No West German or other troops should be stationed there, Saarlanders should not be conscripted for the West German Wehrmacht, and the Saar should be allowed to trade freely with both East and West Germany.

LIBERAL PARTIES MAKE FIRST EAST-WEST CONTACT

First official contact between East German and West German political parties for nearly ten years was made at the beginning of October, when members of the central boards of the East German Liberal Democratic Party and the West German Free Democratic Party met for discussions in Weimar.

Both parties are of considerable importance: the Liberal Democratic Party occupies 52 seats in the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic, and the Free Democratic Party is the third largest party in West Germany. Theodor Heuss, West German President, is a member of the Free Democratic Party.

A joint statement issued at the close of the East-West discussions, which lasted three days, stated: "A central place was occupied in the discussions by the question of the peaceful reunification of Germany, and the possibilities for the two parties to cooperate in achieving this aim. Despite great differences in the philosophical and political ideas of the parties, there were a number of joint ideas on practical steps to encourage reunification. The subjects discussed included the possibility of limiting the armed forces and armaments in both parts of Germany, and proposals for more exchange of opinions and more meetings between Germans. Both parties agreed to continue the discussions, and to make reports to their respective party boards."

While the representatives of the two parties were conferring in Weimar, Dr Johannes Dieckmann, Chairman of the People's Chamber of the Democratic Republic, addressed a letter to Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, Chairman of the West German Parliament, repeating proposals often made in the past that the two German parliaments should enter into direct negotiations on the question of German unity. Dr Dieckmann's letter stated in part:

"The partitioning of Germany has now lasted for seven years, and we believe that no more time should be lost before the two parliaments open direct negotiations on the ways and means for a peaceful and democratic solution of the German problem."

Filling Up The Piggy Bank

Savings are steadily increasing in Democratic Germany, it was officially announced in Berlin on October 3rd. Savings accounts increased by only 186,200,000 marks in 1951, but in 1955 the annual rate of savings had increased to 1,300,000,000 marks. The great increase was not only due to increasing general prosperity, but also to the fact that the purchasing power of the currency of the German Democratic Republic is steadily increasing. Between 1951 and 1955 the purchasing power of the mark rose by 32%.

In West Germany, on the other hand, the purchasing power of the mark is slowly falling, with the result that savings accounts there show a declining tendency.

NATIONAL PRIZE FOR SOCIALIST SONGSTER

The National Prize of the German Democratic Republic was awarded on October 6th to Ernst Busch, internationally famed revolutionary singer and actor.

Ernst Busch became famous throughout Germany and the world in the pre-Hitler period for his renderings of Socialist songs, the text to many of which was written by Bertlot Brecht, and the music by Hanns Eisler. He also played leading parts in many of the finest pre-Hitler German films, including "Kameradschaft" and "No Man's Land".

In Spain, Ernst Busch became the singer of the International Brigades, and after his liberation from a nazi jail at the end of the war he played a leading role in many of the best plays staged in Democratic Germany.

Other prizes and medals awarded on the seventh birthday of the German Democratic Republic included the award of the "Fatherland Order" to Professor Gustav Hertz, leading German scientist, who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1925.

"NEVER-NEVER" BUYING IN EAST GERMANY

Installment buying for furnishings and household equipment was introduced in the German Democratic Republic on October 1st. From this date purchasers were able to get immediate delivery of goods ranging from radios and sewing machines to complete furnishings, with two years to pay.

To prevent people from buying more than they can easily pay for, the total value of goods bought on the installment plan may not exceed 20% of the annual income. If purchasers cannot keep up the payments because of sickness or other unavoidable hindrance, an extension of the repayment period is ensured.

Shops in all parts of the Republic reported record sales during the first week the new scheme was in operation.

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Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

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"BAN ARMING OF SS"

Democratic Germany Appeals to UN

The following letter was sent on September 26th 1956 to Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations in New York. The letter was signed by Dr Hans Loch, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic and Chairman of the Committee for German Unity.

The Committee for German Unity takes this opportunity of informing you about the following circumstances and of requesting your assistance in this connection:

The Ministry of Defence of the German Federal Republic, through an order published in the Bulletin of the Federal Ministry of Defence on September 1st 1956, has thrown open the higher officers' ranks of the Federal Army to former officers of the Waffen SS up to the rank of Obersturmbannfuehrer (Lieutenant Colonel). Former SS officers are to serve in the Federal Army in the rank to which they were appointed by SS Reich Leader Himmler during the Hitlerite regime.

The Waffen SS, together with the Totenkopf (Death's Head) formations, were amongst the most fanatical troops of the Hitlerite regime. They were established by Hitler by special decree in March 1935 to carry out special operations against opponents of his regime. They were composed exclusively of volunteers until 1944; during the last year of the war, lower army grade were also transferred from other formations to the Waffen SS. The officers of the Waffen SS were without exception volunteers.

The Waffen SS, together with the Totenkopf formations and the Gestapo, took an active part in all crimes and horrors committed under the Hitlerite regime. Members of the Waffen SS carried out the cruel "mopping-up" actions, deportations and extermination measures against the Jews in Poland, in Czechoslovakia, in the Soviet Union, in France, Holland, Belgium and other countries; the Waffen SS exercised political police control in a number of countries occupied by Hitler, for instance in Norway and Denmark; the Waffen SS took part in the murder of millions of innocent citizens in all countries of Europe; the Waffen SS were responsible for the crimes of Oradour and Malmedy.

The International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, which was composed of judges of the Four Great Powers, stated:

"It is impossible to exempt even a part of the SS from responsibility for these criminal activities. The general SS took an active part in the persecution of the Jews and was used as a reserve for recruitment of staff for the concentration camps. Units of the Waffen SS took a direct part in the murder of prisoners of war and in cruelties committed in occupied territories. The Waffen SS provided personnel for the "Einsatzgruppen" (special extermination squads, ed.) and controlled the concentration camp guards after the Totenkopf SS, which was originally in control here, had been merged with the Waffen SS. Various SS police units were also employed for cruelties perpetrated in the occupied countries and for the extermination of the Jews in these countries. The central SS office supervised the activities of these various formations and was responsible for such special undertakings as the experiments on human beings and for the "final solution" of the Jewish question. The Court has reached the conclusion that knowledge of these criminal actions was sufficiently widespread to justify the statement that the SS was a criminal organisation to the extent stated below. It seems, however, that the attempt was made to keep certain fields of its activity secret; but its programme was so widely known and meant slaughter of such hideously widespread proportions that its criminal activity must have been widely known."

(Official protocol, Vol. XII, page 587 of the German edition, retranslated from German, ed.)

At the 5th Trial conducted by the Nuremberg Military Tribunal, the court referred to the SS in these words:

"An organisation which is responsible for crimes on such an enormous scale cannot be other than criminal."

(German Protocol, page 10761, retranslated from German, ed.)

The general SS and the Waffen SS were therefore declared to be criminal organisations, and for the same reason they were declared in the Potsdam Agreement, August 2nd 1945, Section III, sub-section A, para. 3 (i) to be "completely and finally abolished in such manner as permanently to prevent the revival or reorganisation of German militarism and Nazism."

Permit me in this connection to draw your attention to the fact that

April 1943: Men of the Waffen-SS drive inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto off to the gas chambers

on the territory of the German Federal Republic there already exist extensive organisations of former members of the SS which, with the official consent of the authorities there, organise public meetings and demonstrations at which there is open glorification of the Hitlerite regime and incitement to hatred and violence against neighbouring countries and their governments.

We list below, as far as they are known to us, the SS organisations which have already been revived in the form of Old Soldiers' associations.

1. SS Panzer Division "Leibstandarte", Alwin Schlueter, Hamburg - Lohbruegge, Buchenweg 18;
2. SS Panzer Division "Das Reich", Sepp Kuesters, Essen-Ruhr, Weserstrasse 41;
3. SS Panzer Division "Totenkopf", Franz Sonnemann, Hannover-Bothfeld, Kleine Heide 12;
4. SS Panzer Grenadier Division, Werner Oschassek, Duesseldorf, Friedrichstrasse 148;
5. SS Panzer Division "Wiking", Adolf Herbert, Gelsenkirchen, Schulz-Briesen Strasse 7;
6. SS Mountain Division "Nord", Franz Schreiber, Hamburg-Stellingen, Arminiusstrasse 4;
7. SS Volunteer Mountain Division "Prinz Eugen", Uwe Carstens, Hamburg - Othmarschen, Noerstrasse 3;
8. SS Cavalry Division "Florian Geyer", Wolfgang Reinhardt, Hannover, Legienstrasse 1/I;
9. SS Panzer Division "Hohenstaufen", Fritz Ferber, Suepplingenburg ueber Helmstedt, Dorfstrasse 76;
10. SS Panzer Division "Frundsberg", Walter Arve, Hannover, Karl Kraut Strasse 10;
11. SS Panzer Grenadier Division "Nordland", Willi Hand, Zell a. N., Wilhelmstrasse 81;
12. SS Panzer Division "Hitler Jugend", Heinrich Wolf, Wendlingen-Ub., Kreis Nuertingen, Hirnhol 2;
13. SS Mountain Division "Handschar" (Moslem), Uwe Carstens, Hamburg - Othmarschen, Noerstrasse 3;
14. SS Grenadier Division (Galicia), Hans Klein, Hagen/Westphalia, Dreieckstrasse 9;
15. SS Grenadier Division (Latvia), Voldemar Midzins, Muenster-Westphalia, Grenener Strasse 69;
16. SS Panzer Grenadier Division "Reichsfuehrer SS", Paul Loch, Idar-Oberstein, Heckweg 18;
17. SS Panzer Grenadier Division "Goetz von Berlichingen", Rudi Mueller, Stuttgart/Wuertemberg, Reinsburgstrasse 131;
18. SS Panzer Grenadier Division "Horst Wessel", Arno Moskau, Hildesheim 2, Postfach 61;
19. SS Grenadier Division (Latvia), Hans Schaefer, Hueingshausen-Westphalia, Kreis Altena;
20. SS Grenadier Division (Estonia), Werner Muethel, Bremen-St. Magnus, Lesumer Heer Strasse 64;
21. SS Mountain Division "Skanderbeg" (Albania), Uwe Carstens, Hamburg - Othmarschen Noerstrasse 3;
22. SS Cavalry Division (Hungary), Wolfgang Reinhardt, Hannover, Legienstrasse 1/I;
23. SS Mountain Division, "Kama", (Croatia), Uwe Carstens, Hamburg-Othmarschen, Noerstr. 3;
24. SS Mountain Hunter Division, Uwe Carstens, Hamburg-Othmarschen, Noerstrasse 3;
25. SS Volunteer Panzer Grenadier Division "Langemarck" (Flemish), Peter De Vuyst, Hameln-Weser, Fischbecker Strasse 19;
26. SS Volunteer Panzer Grenadier Division "Wallonie" (Walloons), Will Joyeux, Vornbach/Inn, ueber Passau;
27. SS Panzer Grenadier Division "30th January" (Panzer Grenadier School), Horst Wilke, Sarstedt ueber Hannover, Lerchenweg 7;
28. SS Grenadier Division "Charlemagne", Bernhard Barabas, Buchen/Odenw., Kellereistr. 24;
29. SS Grenadier Division "Landstorm Nederland" (Holland), Caspar Serno, Dortmund, Friedrichstrasse 46.

The transfer of the commanding officers of the Waffen SS, which was condemned as a criminal organisation, to the higher ranks of the Federal Army and the revival of the SS troop organisations on the territory of the Federal Republic means a renewed threat to peace and the security of nations. This threat gives grounds for the United Nations to use Article 1, para. 1 and 2 of Chapter 1 of the UN Charter and to "take appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace."

The Federal Republic is not a member of the United Nations, but Article 2, para. 6 of Chapter I of the Charter expressly authorises the United Nations to take appropriate action:

> "The Organisation shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security."

The rearmament in the Federal Republic of members of an organisation which has been declared criminal is not only a flagrant breach of the Potsdam Agreement and of the Charter of the United Nations, but is also a contradiction of the basic principles of the Atlantic Charter of August 14th 1941. In this document the signatory states declare:

> "After the final destruction of Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."

But when the most fanatical perpetrators, instigators and supporters of the criminal Hitlerite regime are again supplied with weapons, there is no longer any guarantee that the peoples of Europe can live out their lives without fear. In addition, the reinstatement of those who committed and supported the crimes of the Hitlerite regime renders impossible the reunification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis. This greatly heightens political tension in Central Europe and there is growing danger of the seeds of a new war being sown. Article 99 of the United Nations Charter states:

> "The Secretary - General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."

The application of this Article of the United Nations Charter is justified in the case of the revival of SS formations and integration of SS officers in senior positions in the officers' corps of the Federal Army. I address myself to you, Sir, with express reference to Article 99 and request you to initiate the necessary action to cause the Federal Government to forbid the arming of members of the criminal Waffen SS, to prevent further steps in this direction and to forbid the activity of the revived SS Old Soldiers' Associations on German soil.

I request you to place the contents of this letter before the members of the Security Council.

ATOM BOMBS FOR THE SS?

Adenauer to SS Officer: "Just think what you can do with an atom bomb."

("Neues Deutschland" East Berlin)

The West German Government is now demanding that the new Wehrmacht be armed with atomic weapons.

The demand was officially made by the Christian Democratic parliamentary group on September 26th. Spokesman of the group, former nazi General Staff Colonel Fritz Berendsen, stated that his party was not demanding immediate armament with atomic weapons "but the question will become acute within a year".

The Bonn newspaper "Bonner Rundschau", which often acts as a semi-official government mouthpiece, stated on September 27th: "The time has come to arm ourselves with atomic cannon and rockets".

(It is generally assumed that the Paris Agreements of October 23rd 1954, which signalled the start of West German rearmament, banned atomic weapons for West Germany. Careful examination of the agreement shows, however, that West Germany is only banned from manufacturing atomic, chemical and biological weapons. The agreements left West Germany at liberty to import such weapons from other countries.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly urged the West German Government to agree to a general banning of all atomic weapons on German territory in East and West.)

The "Times", London, announced on September 24th the news that West Germany wanted atom weapons under the following headline:

Reproducing the headline, the London magazine "Punch" commented succinctly: "Frank, anyway".

Public Pressure Forces Call-Up Cut

Public opposition to the formation of the new Wehrmacht in West Germany has forced Chancellor Adenauer to reduce the call-up period to twelve months. It was originally planned to call up all nineteen-year-olds for 18 months of military service, and many military leaders had pressed for a two-year conscription period.

The reduction in the call-up was announced by Chancellor Adenauer on September 26th. The announcement said that the reduction had been made "because the Federal cabinet would probably no longer agree to an eighteen-month call-up".

The NATO council, meeting in Paris on September 28th, stated in a communique that it was "uneasy" about the West German decision.

Political circles in Bonn suggested that Chancellor Adenauer had cut the call-up with his eye on the general elections to be held in West Germany next year.

The first 40,000 conscripts to the new Wehrmacht will be called up on January 2nd 1957, it was announced in Bonn.

Bridge for Sweden

The new Söderströms bridge in Stockholm, Sweden, will be built by a nationally owned firm from the German Democratic Republic, it was officially announced in Stockholm. The nationally owned firm won the contract against competition from nine other Swedish and foreign firms.

BIG PENSION FOR HITLER'S HEIR

War Criminal Admiral Gets Thousands

Nazi Admiral Karl Doenitz, one of the main war criminals, will receive a pension of 1300 marks (about £120) monthly from the West German Government, it was officially stated in Bonn.

Doenitz was released on October 1st from Spandau Prison, after serving the ten year sentence for war crimes imposed on him by the Nuremberg Tribunal. On April 30th 1945 Hitler appointed Doenitz as his successor as "President of the Reich", and reports from West Germany indicate that efforts may be made to grant Doenitz an even larger pension as "former President".

The International Military Tribunal meeting in Nuremberg sentenced Karl Doenitz to ten years imprisonment on October 1st 1946, after finding him guilty of crimes against peace and war crimes. The verdict stated in part: "Doenitz waged aggressive war within the meaning of the word as defined by the Charter... Doenitz permitted the order for the shooting of commandos and POWs to remain in force when he became Commander in Chief, and to that degree he is responsible. A man in his position must necessarily have known that the citizens of occupied countries were confined in large numbers in concentration camps."

Munich Bans Call-Up

The Munich City Council decided on September 25th not to establish the call-up centres needed for conscription to the new West German Wehrmacht. The city council declared that it had not got the necessary funds for this purpose.

The mayors of 62 towns and villages in Bavaria have made similar announcements. Earlier it was reported that the mayors of 58 towns and villages in Hessen Province had refused to cooperate in the call-up preparations.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Public opinion in all parts of the world is justly incensed at the decision of the West German Government to re-employ SS officers in their old ranks in the new West German Wehrmacht. But the shocked surprise which greeted this step in some quarters was really unwarranted. After all, if former SS officers can be ministers in the West German government, it is hard to disqualify them from the Wehrmacht.

Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT may have been shocked by the step, but I believe they will hardly have been surprised. Just three years ago, on October 30th 1953, GERMAN REPORT published full biographical notes on Waldemar Kraft, Minister without Portfolio, who had membership number 347, 148 in the SS and rose to the rank of major in the organisation, and of Viktor Emmanuel Preusker, Housing Minister, who joined the SS in 1933, and became one of the organisation's instructors on "racial questions".

Old Sums

When the Paris Agreement, which authorised the rearmament of West Germany, was signed on October 23rd 1954, everybody was assured that the size of the new West German forces would be severely limited.

But there are indications that nobody, particularly the West German militarists, is taking the limitation very seriously. Here is the evidence:

The British White Paper (Cmd. 9304) states on page 37: "The land and air forces ... shall not exceed in total strength ... for the Federal Republic of Germany the maxima laid down in the Special Agreement. The Special Agreement annexed to the European Defence Community Treaty is not a published document. Authoritative German sources have, however, confirmed that the levels laid down for the German contribution to European Defence Community were as follows: ". . . Air Force — A Tactical Air Force of about 1350 aircraft."

Which would seem to be clear enough. But now note this Reuter dispatch from Dusseldorf, published in the "Manchester Guardian" on September 8th 1956:

"The West German aircraft industry said today that it would build 1,230 aircraft, mostly under foreign licence, in the first stage of the new West German Air Force's procurement programme. The industry's press service said that the Air Force was getting a total of 2,383 aircraft in the initial phase of its build-up."

And if "about 1350 aircraft" in the Paris agreement is the same thing as "2,383 aircraft in the initial phase," then mathematics have altered sadly since I left school. It looks to me as if a question in the House of Commons would not be out of place.

Are We Obscene?

A friend in South Africa has sent us a copy of the South African Government's "Gazette Extraordinary" dated August 17th with a full list of the publications which it is forbidden to import into the country. The full list of 2300 books and periodicals, which are banned as being "indecent, objectionable or obscene" makes weird reading.

The reason for the banning of some of these publications is fairly clear, though it may be narrowminded: I refer to such works as "The Awful Disclosures of Maria Monk", "The Blonde on the Street Corner" and "The Female Body Beautiful".

Mixed up with such books, however, there appear the titles of all sorts of other publications which I cannot really believe constitute any serious danger to the morals of South Africans. Here are a few samples: "Anti-Duehring" by Friedrich Engels, "Agrarian Policy of Social Democracy in 1905" by Lenin, and a volume on the historic buildings of Czechoslovakia. In this section there is one title which really intrigues me: "Advertising Works of J. Stalin". I knew that he wrote about all sorts of subjects — but advertising?

After that, it is no surprise to find that GERMAN REPORT is banned too, along with Czechoslovak Life, China Reconstructs, and dozens of other periodicals from the People's Democracies.

Of course it is all too easy to regard a list like this as merely comic: but it can be the very reverse for people in South Africa who can be fined £ 1000 and sent to prison for five years for just having in their possession one of the books or periodicals listed.

I am glad to learn from "Saamtrek", South African trade union weekly, that some judges in the South African Supreme Court have still kept cool heads in the atmosphere of book-burning. The paper reported on August 31st that a South African was recently sentenced to a prison term for the simple possession of a copy of GERMAN REPORT. He appealed the case, and the Supreme Court quashed the verdict, ruling that the law only forbids GERMAN REPORT if it is imported into South Africa. The fact that GERMAN REPORT states at the bottom of the back page "Printed in Germany" was not sufficient evidence that the copy seized was actually printed in Germany and then imported to South Africa. It might have been printed in South Africa, the court ruled.

And far be it from me to argue with the decision of the august Supreme Court.

Booklet

The Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries here in Berlin has produced a neat miniature booklet of 80 pages entitled "Do You Know the German Democratic Republic?" with many interesting pictures and a lot of details of the progress being made here.

The English edition of the little booklet is already out, and versions in other languages will be available in the near future. Any reader who would like a copy or a few extra copies to give to friends should write to GERMAN REPORT at the address at the foot of this page.

Cut Sentence

On August 17th we published an article by Ron Montague, of Upminster, England, under the title "New Spirit in Democratic Germany."

Mr Montague has now drawn our attention to the fact that one sentence was omitted from his article. Reporting on some of the criticisms made to him by people he spoke with while spending a holiday in the German Democratic Republic, Mr Montague wrote: "Some complained that their only hope of travelling abroad was by joining one or other of the Government parties, and 'jumping on the bandwaggon'."

This cut, which was originally made for reasons of space, is herewith repaired.

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